

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Retail Access Optimization Initiative

Docket No. N2011-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

(Issued August 2, 2011)

The Postal Service is requested to respond to the following questions to clarify the record on its request for an advisory opinion under 39 U.S.C. 3661(c) regarding the examination of continuation of service at approximately 3,650 postal retail locations.¹ In order to facilitate inclusion of the required material in the evidentiary record, the Postal Service shall have a witness attest to the accuracy of the answers and be prepared to explain, to the extent necessary, the basis for the answers at the hearings. Responses shall be provided no later than August 9, 2011.

1. Please provide a digital copy of all demographic, economic, and geographic data that will be used to develop profiles for evaluation of each candidate facility.
2. Please confirm that revenue, as it is considered a criterion to identify candidate facilities:
 - a. does not include revenue from business mail entered using permits issued at a different facility. If not confirmed, please explain.

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service for an Advisory Opinion on Changes in the Nature of Postal Services, July 27, 2011 (Request).

- b. does not include revenue from mail delivered to or through the facility, including post office boxes, caller service, or street delivery. If not confirmed, please explain.
- 3. Please refer to USPS-LR-N2011-1/1, the USPS Handbook PO-101 *Postal Service-Operated Retail Facilities Discontinuance Guide* relating to the Testimony of Witness Boldt (USPS-T-1). The handbook refers to “economic savings to the Postal Service” as a component of a proposal to discontinue a facility.
 - a. Please describe the calculation of “economic savings” describing all the common one time or annual expenses or savings included in the calculation.
 - b. Please provide a date that an estimate of the economic savings, by facility, from discontinuation of the candidate facilities will be available.
- 4. Please estimate the percentage of revenue from discontinued facilities that would be captured by other facilities in close proximity, including retail over-the-counter transactions and post office box rental revenue.
 - a. If the Postal Service anticipates this percentage to vary by facility, please explain.
 - b. Please explain the methodology used to estimate the overall percentage or any variance from that percentage.
- 5. Please provide information on whether and how non-revenue customer transactions will be recognized.

6. Please refer to Library Reference USPS-LR-N2011-1-2. Please define the following facility types: FND_S and FND_B.
7. Please refer to the description of the “Change Suspension Discontinuance Center” (CSDC) program at USPS-T-1 at pages 18-19.
 - a. Please provide, or make available, the CSDC program.
 - b. Please provide the source data or database for the CSDC program, including data for all facilities that were considered in developing the list of candidate facilities.

Preservation of convenient access is an important consideration within the initiative. The following questions seek to clarify the availability, use, and convenience of those affected postal facilities that remain open and other alternate access channels.

8. Please explain how the Postal Service will estimate the effect of the initiative on the capacity of remaining facilities that are in the proximity of a discontinued facility:
 - a. to absorb additional retail transactions; and
 - b. to absorb additional post office box demand.
9. Please confirm that no candidate facilities and none of the alternative access sites were under suspension as of July 27, 2011. Request at 5. If not confirmed, please explain.

10. Please define the term “Village Post Office” as used in the initiative, and explain the difference(s), if any, between a CPU and a Village Post Office, particularly any difference in product or service offerings.
11. Please estimate the number of Village Post Offices that the Postal Service currently has and anticipates having operational in 6 and 12 months?
12. Please describe the methods by which the Postal Service plans to initiate and finalize agreements for the creation of Village Post Offices.
13. Please describe the Postal Service’s plan for the use of Automated Postal Centers (APCs) in providing alternative retail access as part of the initiative.
14. Please refer to USPS-T-1 at page 12. The witness provides a chart showing “proximity to the nearest Post Office [that] is based off of geographic coordinate distance, rather than driving distance.” Please provide a data file with the actual driving distances to the nearest alternate retail location for each facility under consideration.
15. Please refer to USPS-T-1 at page 16, n.13, where the witness indicates that alternative access includes nearby approved shippers and stamp consignment locations in addition to full service alternatives. Please provide:
 - a. the number of occurrences where the five nearest locations are approved shippers or stamp consignment locations (not full service alternatives);
and

- b. the Postal Service's anticipated action when none of the five nearest locations are full service.

Ruth Y. Goldway
Presiding Officer